KING BLACK
SPIDER-MAN
MARVEL
1
PETER DAVID
GREG LAND
JAY LEISTEN
FRANK D'ARMATA
LAND
fgd

AFTER THE FIRST SECRET WARS, PETER PARKER RETURNED HOME TO NEW YORK CITY WITH A BRAND-NEW COSTUME HE THOUGHT HAD BEEN CRAFTED BY ALIEN TECHNOLOGY. IT COULD RESPOND TO HIS EVERY THOUGHT, SHAPE-SHIFT TO MIMIC HIS CIVILIAN CLOTHING AND EVEN GENERATE A SEEMINGLY ENDLESS SUPPLY OF HIS UNIQUE WEBBING!

NOW, IN HIS SLEEK ALL-BLACK COSTUME, PETER PARKER BALANCES HIS PERSONAL LIFE, HIS PHOTOGRAPHY JOB FOR THE DAILY BUGLE AND HIS SUPER-HEROICS AS HE SWINGS THROUGH THE CITY AS THE AMAZING FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-MAN!

THOUGH UNBEKNOWNST TO PETER, HIS ALIEN COSTUME MAY BE MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE...

SYMBIOTE SPIDER-MAN

THE SWORD AND THE SPIRIT
PART ONE

PETER DAVID WRITER // **GREG LAND** PENCILER
JAY LEISTEN INKER// **FRANK D'ARMATA** COLORIST
VC's JOE SABINO LETTERER

GREG LAND & FRANK D'ARMATA COVER ARTISTS

ALEX SAVIUK & CHRIS SOTOMAYOR;
GEOFF SHAW & FRANK MARTIN;
KHARY RANDOLPH & EMILIO LOPEZ;
SUPERLOG VARIANT COVER ARTISTS

PATRICK McGRATH KING IN BLACK LOGO DESIGN
JAY BOWEN KING IN BLACK TRADE DRESS DESIGN
ANTHONY GAMBINO PRODUCTION DESIGN
DANNY KHAZEM ASSISTANT EDITOR
DEVIN LEWIS EDITOR
NICK LOWE EXECUTIVE EDITOR
C.B. CEBULSKI EDITOR IN CHIEF
SPIDER-MAN CREATED BY STAN LEE & STEVE DITKO

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RAVENCROFT.
INSTITUTE FOR THE CRIMINALLY INSANE.
ALISTAIR.
ALISTAIR, WE NEED TO TALK.
SLEEPING WELL, ALISTAIR?
Eh? Dad...?
DAD?!
BUT... BUT YOU'RE DEAD!
YES, HE IS. I'M NOT ACTUALLY HIM.
THIS IS JUST A LESS INTIMIDATING FORM.
I...I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
DO YOU REMEMBER LOUIS TUTTLE?
Y-YES. WE WENT TO COLLEGE TOGETHER. HE JOINED NASA.
HE THOUGHT VERY HIGHLY OF YOU. HE WAS MY PREVIOUS HOST.
HOST?
CAN'T EXIST IN THIS REALM WITHOUT ONE. UNFORTUNATELY HE GOT...
...INCINERATED.
ANYWAY, THAT'S WHERE YOU COME IN.

YOU NEED A NEW HOST.
BINGO! THAT'S THE WORD, RIGHT? "BINGO"?
IT'S A WORD, YES.
THIS FACILITY HAS QUITE A LABORATORY. SEEMS INSANE CRIMINALS ARE MOST POPULAR TO EXPERIMENT ON.
I CAN GAIN YOU ACCESS TO IT.
I CAN MAKE YOU WALK AGAIN.
YOU JUST NEED TO WHIP UP A FORMULA AND INJECT YOURSELF. I'LL GIVE YOU SPECIFICS.
THEN INTRODUCE IT INTO THE CLINIC'S VENTILATION SYSTEM.
THAT'S ALL?
THAT'S ALL.
DEAL.
"THIS BODES ILL."

THERE ARE TIMES WHEN I DESPISE MY ABILITY TO SEE EVERYTHING.
ESPECIALLY WHEN THERE IS NOTHING THAT I CAN DO ABOUT IT.
THAT IS BEYOND THE PARAMETERS OF MY KIND. WE DO NOT ACT. WE CAN ONLY OBSERVE.
WE ONCE HAD A NAME AS A RACE, BUT IT IS LONG FORGOTTEN.
HUMANS THOUGHT US TO BE FALLEN ANGELS, BACK WHEN THEY GLIMPSED ONE OF OUR KIND UPON THEIR WORLD THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO. THEY CALLED US "GRIGORI."
WE HAVE SINCE NAMED OURSELVES AFTER OUR FUNCTION.
WE CALL OURSELVES "WATCHERS."

THERE IS SO MUCH GOING ON DOWN ON EARTH. SO MANY PEOPLE. SO MUCH FUSS.
THEY OBSESS ABOUT EVERYTHING THAT IS IRRELEVANT AND IGNORE THAT WHICH IS VITAL.
I SEE IT ALL. THERE IS NOTHING THAT ESCAPES MY VISION.
IT IS MOST ODD, THEN...
THAT I DID NOT SEE THIS COMING.
I AM UNABLE TO MOVE. TIME HAS STOPPED AROUND ME.
THIS SHOULD PROVE...
...INTERESTING.

NEW YORK CITY
David's ICE CREAM
ORSON!
NO!
MY BALLOON!

HUH?
THIS'LL MAKE ME A LITTLE LATE TO THE *BUGLE*, BUT JONAH WILL HAVE TO LIVE WITH IT.
CAN'T LET A KID'S EXCITEMENT OVER A BALLOON END HIS LIFE.
IT'D BE A LOUSY WAY TO START THE DAY.
WHEEEEE!
AGAIN!
NO, NO "*AGAIN.*" STICK WITH YOUR MOTHER FROM NOW ON, OKAY?
'KAY.
YOU NEVER RUN FROM MOMMY! EVER!
'KAY.
WHO SAVED YOU?!
DAREDEVIL!
HEH. YEEEAAH, THAT FIGURES. DO SOMETHING NICE, AND SOMEBODY ELSE GETS THE CREDIT.
AT LEAST THE WORLD'S BACK TO NORMAL. AND YEAH, FELICIA MIGHT BE ANNOYED WITH ME, BUT SHE'LL GET OVER IT.
BESIDES, I DON'T DO THIS FOR THE CREDIT.
AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT I KEEP TELLING MYSELF.

PARKER!
GOOD TIMING FOR ONCE.
GO WITH NED.
DAILY BUGLE
NED LEEDS?
NO, NED BEATTY. FIND OUT WHAT SHOOTING "DUELING BANJOS" WAS LIKE.
YES, NED LEEDS! OBVIOUSLY!
HEY, NED. WHERE'RE WE GOING?
RAVENCROFT INSTITUTE...
IS IT MEAT LOAF DAY?
ALISTAIR SMYTHE WANTS TO TALK. ACTUALLY HE WANTED TO SEE JONAH, BUT I'M GOING INSTEAD.
THE SPIDER-SLAYER GUY?
THE VERY SAME.
ANY PARTICULAR REASON?
CLAIMS HE'S DEVELOPING CYBERNETIC IMPLANTS THAT HE SAYS CAN HELP PEOPLE WHO ARE PARALYZED.
SO HE'S A SUPER VILLAIN TRYING TO FIX HIS PUBLIC IMAGE.
SEEMS SO.
GOOD, BECAUSE THAT ALWAYS ENDS WELL.
ACTUALLY, WHO KNOWS? MAYBE IT WILL.
PERHAPS HE REALLY DOES WANT TO REFORM.
YOU NEVER KNOW WITH BAD GUYS. SOMETIMES YOU JUST HAVE TO WAIT AND WATCH.

WHAT IS YOUR NAME?
I AM KNOWN AS THE WATCHER.
YOU'RE A WATCHER. YOU HAVE AN INDIVIDUAL MONIKER?
UATU.
AND I AM--
I KNOW WHO YOU ARE...
YOU ARE KANG THE CONQUEROR. OCCASIONAL ENEMY OF THE AVENGERS. TIME-TRAVELING DESPOT.
IF I LEFT OUT ANYTHING, I DO APOLOGIZE.
YOU WATCHERS, SO FAULTLESSLY POLITE.
DO YOU KNOW WHY I'VE CAPTURED YOU?
I OFFER NO OFFENSIVE CAPABILITIES, SO NO, NOT REALLY.
"OFFER," NO. BUT YOU HAVE THEM IN ABUNDANCE NEVERTHELESS.

YOU HAVE BEEN OBSERVING HUMANITY FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS, YES?
GIVE OR TAKE.
GOOD. YOU POSSESS KNOWLEDGE IT WOULD REQUIRE LIFETIMES FOR ME TO LEARN.
THEN YOU REALLY SHOULD NOT BE WASTING TIME HERE.
IT IS *HARDLY* A WASTE.
I AM GOING TO *EXTRACT* YOUR KNOWLEDGE, UATU. FEED IT INTO MY COMPUTER.
THEN I CAN SURVEY IT AT MY LEISURE.
WHAT POSSIBLE REASON WOULD YOU HAVE TO DO THAT?
BECAUSE, UATU, THIS TIME-TRAVELING DESPOT...
...IS ENDEAVORING TO *SAVE THE UNIVERSE.*
KLIK

FOOL. BLIND FOOL.
ALL HE IS DOING IS PROVIDING ME INROADS TO HIS SHIP'S A.I.
HE IS UNAWARE OF MY PSIONIC POWER. INSTEAD OF DRAWING ALL MY KNOWLEDGE...
...I AM ABSORBING ALL OF HIS.
I SEE THINGS THAT HAPPENED EONS BEFORE I EXISTED. AN EPIC BATTLE BETWEEN DARKNESS AND LIGHT...
...BEINGS I HAVE NEVER SEEN BEFORE.
AND NOW... I...SOMEHOW... I AM SEEING THE FUTURE...SEEING WHAT KANG SAW... AND IT...
...THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE...
...IT...
...SEES ME...

WHAT THE BLAZES?!
EMERGENCY OVERRIDE! ACTIVATE VOCAL COMMAND!
DISCONNECT! DISCONNECT!
VOCAL COMMAND OFF-LINE. RESETTING IN TWO MINUTES.
OH, FOR--!
OMEGA EMERGENCY OVERRIDE! RELEASE THE WATCHER!
GET HIM OFF THE SHIP! NOW! NOW!
YOU HAVE INSTITUTED THE OMEGA EMERGENCY OVERRIDE. WELCOME. PLEASE FOLLOW PRELIMINARY INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR--
COME ON!!!
OF COURSE.
TRY TO SAVE THE UNIVERSE AND THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS.

FABULOUS.

ALISTAIR? YOUR VISITORS ARE ON THE WAY UP.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
EXPERIMENTING, MONICA. SO UNLESS YOU'RE VOLUNTEERING TO BE A SUBJECT...
WHAT IS THAT YOU'RE INJECTING?! HAS IT BEEN APPROVED?
SOMETHING OF MY OWN CREATION.
AT THE MOMENT, I HAVE A TANK OF IT PUMPING INTO THE VENTILATION SYSTEM.
IT SHOULD BE THROUGHOUT THE ASYLUM BY NOW.
WH-WHAT?! YOU'RE...YOU'RE INSANE!
IN MY DEFENSE, THIS *IS* AN INSANE ASYLUM.
KAFF KAFF
AAAAAND WE'RE OFF AND RUNNING.

AH. PERFECT. IT'S STARTING.
UH-OH. SOMETHING'S WRONG. SPIDER-SENSE IS GOING NUTS.
COULD BE A GENERALIZED THING BECAUSE THEY HAVE CRIMINALS IN HERE, BUT...
WHAT THE--!!!
AN ECLIPSE? A SOLAR ECLIPSE?
THERE'S NO ECLIPSE TODAY! THEY'RE NOT LIKE TORNADOES THAT JUST HAPPEN! WHY--?

GLORIOUS, ISN'T IT? IT'S A DISPLAY OF THE SHADOW REALM.
AS MATTERS PROGRESS IN THE FUTURE, IT RIPPLES BACK TO THE PAST. HISTORY REWRITES ITSELF.
OR DID YOU JUST THINK CREATION RAN ONLY ONE WAY?
AH. I SEE YOU'RE NOT EXACTLY IN SHAPE TO REPLY.
TRUST ME. YOU LOOK FAR BETTER THIS WAY.
THIS IS SO MUCH MORE CONVENIENT THAN INJECTIONS.
BREATHE IT IN AND YOU BECOME ONE OF MY SLAVES. JUST LIKE MY HOST, ALISTAIR.
MY LORD WILL NOT BE SORRY HE GAVE ME THIS SECOND CHANCE.
A SHAME JONAH DECLINED TO COME. BUT...

"...HIS REPORTER WILL HAVE TO DO."
NED! THERE'S SOMETHING INSANE GOING ON--
OHHH, THIS IS NOT GOOD.
NED... JUST STAY BACK...
STAY BACK!!!
NED'S NOT IN CONTROL. GONNA NEED TO CHANGE MY COSTUME AND DEFUSE--

SLASH

THERE ARE TOO MANY OF THEM. GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE FAST...
GOTTA PULL THE PUNCH... NOT DO TOO MUCH DAMAGE. THAT'S STILL NED IN THERE.
WAAAAM
HE LOOKS SURPRISED. WONDER WHY.
NOT EXACTLY THE BEST TIME TO QUIZ HIM ON IT THOUGH.
GOING UP!

THE CLOSER I GET TO THE SOURCE OF THE DANGER, THE MORE MY SPIDER-SENSE GOES NUTS.
USUALLY IT TELLS ME WHAT TO KEEP AWAY FROM, BUT THIS TIME I CAN USE IT AS A GUIDE.
AW GREAT. HERE COMES MUMMENSCHANZ AGAIN...
AND, OH PERFECT, HERE COMES THE CAR.
MOVE, PETER. MOVE, MOVE...
MOVE!!!
EXCELLENT. THE SOURCE IS JUST AHEAD.

SMYTHE--! I KNEW IT!
NO. NOT SMYTHE. I AM--
MISTER E!

OY.
"MISTER E."
NOT MYSTERY MAN. NOT MAJOR MYSTERY. MISTER. E.
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO START.
YOU!
THAT'S RIGHT. ME. SO JUST--
BROTHER!!!
WA

WHY IN THE WORLD DID YOU DO THAT, BROTHER?!
WE'RE ON THE *SAME SIDE!* WE BOTH SERVE OUR GOD!

YEAH, I'M PRETTY SURE YOU DIDN'T COME UP IN ANY SERMONS, SORRY.

YOU'RE STRONGER THAN I THOUGHT.
I'M STRONGER THAN *ANYBODY* THINKS.

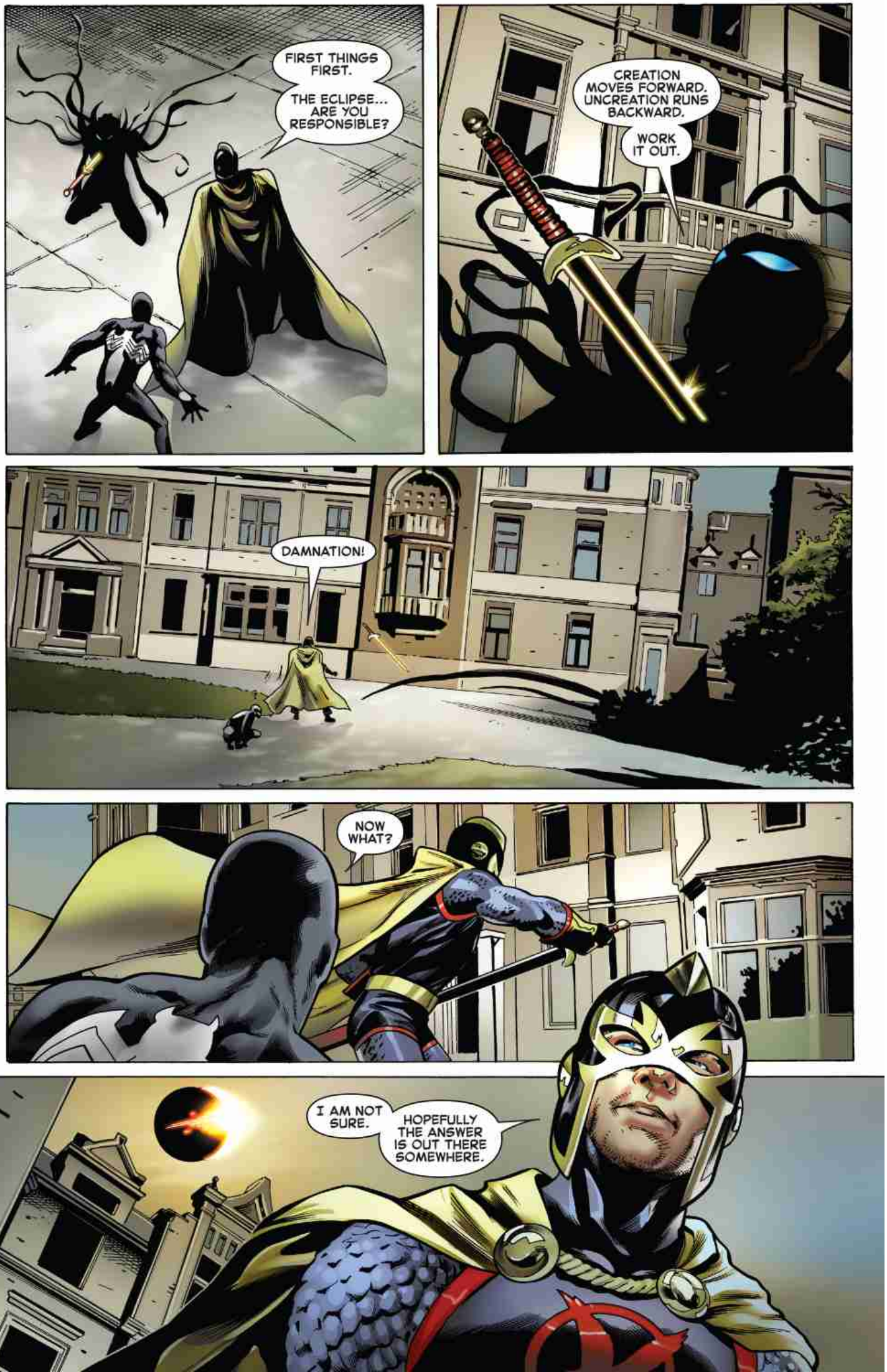
LISTEN TO ME, BROTHER...
WE'RE NOT BROTHERS! I DON'T HAVE A BROTHER!
AND IF I DID, HE WOULDN'T BE A LAMONT CRANSTON WANNABE!
I DO NOT UNDERSTAND THAT REFERENCE.
SORRY, BROTHER. YOU DON'T CATCH ME OFF GUARD TWICE.
UH-OH.
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?
WELL, IT'S KINDA EXPECTED, WHAT WITH YOU BEING THE BAD GUY.
ME? THE "BAD GUY"?
WE ARE KIN! WE REPRESENT THE NATURAL ORDER!
WHAM
BAM

OUR PEOPLE WERE THERE AT THE BEGINNING!
WE SHALL CONTINUE TO EXIST AT THE END.
HUMANITY IS NOTHING BUT A COSMIC BLIP IN THE UNIVERSE.
YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT!
WAAAAM
Unnhhh...
CEASE THIS GAME, MY BROTHER.
STOP PRETENDING YOU ARE SOMETHING THAT YOU'RE NOT.
CONCENTRATE. C'MON, PARKER...
FOCUS ON HITTING HIM. FOCUS ON--
WAIT. NO. WHEN I HIT SHADOW NED, HE LOOKED SURPRISED. HE WASN'T EXPECTING IT.
HE MUST HAVE THOUGHT I'D GO THROUGH HIM, JUST LIKE I DID WITH MISTER E.
AND I WASN'T THINKING ABOUT IT. I JUST DID IT.

CLEAR YOUR MIND. RELAX. LET YOUR SPIDER-SENSE GUIDE YOU.
DO YOU SURRENDER? THAT IS VERY WISE, MY BROTH--
KRUNCH

I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU DID THAT, BUT THIS GAME ENDS NOW!
YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THAT.
EH?
ARRRHHH!!!

WAS JUST FLYING BY-- THOUGHT I COULD BE OF SOME HELP.
THE BLACK KNIGHT?!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
SAVING THE DAY. IT'S WHAT WE DO.


FIRST THINGS FIRST.
THE ECLIPSE... ARE YOU RESPONSIBLE?
CREATION MOVES FORWARD. UNCREATION RUNS BACKWARD.
WORK IT OUT.
DAMNATION!
NOW WHAT?
I AM NOT SURE.
HOPEFULLY THE ANSWER IS OUT THERE SOMEWHERE.

EH?
HI.

WELCOME ABOARD THE RAKK 'N' RUIN II.
I'M THE CAPTAIN AND CREW. NAME'S ROCKET.
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?
TO BE CONTINUED!
NEXT ISSUE: ROCKET RACCOON! BLACK KNIGHT! MERLIN! MORE GUEST STARS THAN YOU CAN SHAKE A STICK AT!

KING IN BLACK

NEXT:
KING IN BLACK #1

CHECKLIST

- **KING IN BLACK #1**
  THE BEGINNING OF THE END!
- **ATLANTIS ATTACKS #5**
  THE AGENTS OF ATLAS THINK THEY'RE PREPARED FOR ANY THREAT, BUT NOTHING COULD PREPARE THEM FOR WHAT'S COMING!
- **THE UNION #1**
  AS KNULL'S FORCES UNLEASH FURY AROUND THE WORLD, WILL ONE HERO IN THE UNITED KINGDOM PAY THE ULTIMATE PRICE?
- **VENOM #31**
  1,454 FEET... A LONG WAY DOWN.
- **KING IN BLACK: IMMORTAL HULK #1**
  KNULL'S ARRIVED DURING THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR. TOO BAD THE HULK ISN'T PREPARED FOR EITHER!
- **KING IN BLACK: NAMOR #1**
  PAST AND PRESENT COLLIDE IN THE UNDERSEA KINGDOM OF ATLANTIS!
- **BLACK CAT #1**
  THE CAT IN BLACK TAKES ON THE KING IN BLACK, STAGING THE MOST DARING HEIST OF HER CAREER!
- **SYMBIOTE SPIDER-MAN: KING IN BLACK #2** (PICTURED)
  SPIDER-MAN TRAVELS THE GALAXY WITH A TALKING RACCOON FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME!
- **KING IN BLACK #2**
- **SPIDER-WOMAN #7**
  TRAPPED ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE MILKY WAY, JESSICA DREW FINDS HERSELF CAUGHT IN KNULL'S DESTRUCTIVE WAKE!
- **KING IN BLACK: IRON MAN/DOCTOR DOOM 1**
  THE MEN CLAD IN METAL FACE OFF AGAINST A HOLLY JOLLY HORROR!
- **KING IN BLACK: NAMOR #2**
  MORE SECRETS FROM NAMOR'S PAST STAND REVEALED AFTER THE REVELATIONS OF *KING IN BLACK #2*!

ZONE